



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE
1420 HOWE AVENUE, SUITE 8
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825-3229
PHONE: (916) 263-2647 FAX: (916) 263-2651
INTERNET: WWW.BPM.CA.GOV



INFORMATION FOR HEALTH FACILITIES

The Board of Podiatric Medicine (BPM) - BPM is the unit of the Medical Board of California (MBC) that licenses Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPMs). There are approximately 1,850 DPMs practicing in California. They are subject to the State Medical Practice Act, and the Medical Board takes complaints and conducts investigations for DPM cases just as it does for MDs.

Accreditation - The Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for accrediting schools of podiatric medicine. CPME also approves residency programs and CME providers, and recognizes specialty boards. Contact: CPME, 9312 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. ☎ (301) 571-9200. <http://www.apma.org/cpme/>

Licensure Requirements - Current State law requires: (1) graduation from a BPM-approved podiatric medical school, (2) passing the national boards Parts I, II and III administered by the Chauncey Group International, a subsidiary of the Educational Testing Service, for the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, and (3) completion of at least one year of BPM-approved residency training.

Resident's Licenses - Postgraduate residents must possess a "resident's license" from BPM. This license limits the resident to participation in a specified training program during a specified one-year period. This training license authorizes the resident to participate fully in rotations as required or approved by CPME and the hospital's program. All residents must always be supervised [§70705, Department of Health Services regulations]. §2483 of the State Medical Practice Act, CPME, and BPM require applicants to be trained comprehensively in medicine. §§ 2475-2476 require that podiatric students and residents be supervised by an MD or DO when the work takes them beyond the scope of their eventual specialty.

Scope of Practice - DPMs with regular licensees are authorized to practice "podiatric medicine" as defined by §2472 of the Medical Practice Act: "the diagnosis, medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, and electrical treatment of the human foot, including the ankle and tendons that insert into the foot and the nonsurgical treatment of the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the functions of the foot." The Medical Practice Act prohibits DPMs from (1) performing total amputations of the foot and (2) personally *administering* general anesthetics. DPMs may administer IV sedation. Nurse anesthetists may administer general anesthetics for podiatric surgery.

DPMs independently diagnose, treat, and prescribe. California law permits MDs and DPMs to perform complete histories and physicals. Updated Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards permit DPMs to perform all or part of the medical history and physical examination at a hospital or ambulatory care facility, if granted such privileges.

Ankle Surgery - Most DPMs may perform ankle surgery, if privileged. The only exception are podiatric surgeons who obtained their DPM license before 1984 and never obtained a separate "ankle license." The license verification link on our website will show "License or Registration Class: ANK" for the standard, full licensure. Non-ankle licensed DPMs may assist in ankle surgery. BPM interprets surgical treatment of the ankle to include those parts of the tibia, fibula, their malleoli and related structures as indicated by the procedures.

Surgical Assisting - The Board is frequently asked if DPMs may assist MDs in surgery: They may. DPMs may (1) practice as authorized by their license, and (2) provide any service for which a license is not required. As DPMs generally have greater surgical training than unlicensed surgical assistants, physician assistants and nurses, health facilities may wish to utilize their services. BPM encourages inter-professional teamwork for the benefit of the patient.

Podiatric Medical Schools - CPME requires a four-year didactic and clinical curriculum similar to that of medical schools, but with an emphasis on the lower extremity. BPM has approved seven CPME-accredited schools, including the California School of Podiatric Medicine (CSPM) located at Samuel Merritt College in Oakland and St. Mary's Medical Center Campus in San Francisco. Administrative contact: 370 Hawthorne Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609. (510) 869-8727. <http://www.samuelmerritt.edu/depts/CSPM/index.cfm>

Graduate Medical Education - CPME is transitioning to new categories of residency programs: Podiatric Medicine and Surgery-24 (PM&S-24) and Podiatric Medicine and Surgery-36 (PM&S-36). Residencies in California must be approved by the Board of Podiatric Medicine. Board regulations require that all hospitals sponsoring residency programs designate a director of medical education, provide emergency medical training through emergency room rotations, measure and evaluate the progress of participants and program effectiveness, and meet the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME) institutional requirements applicable to all medical residencies, in addition to CPME standards.

Specialty Certification – Three specialty certifying boards are currently approved under California Law: The American Board of Podiatric Surgery, the American Board of Podiatric Orthopedics and Primary Podiatric Medicine, and the American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry. Internet links are provided on BPM's website. For further information about ABPS, contact: American Board of Podiatric Surgery, 1601 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-4906 (415) 826-3200. For ABPO, contact: American Board of Orthopedic and Primary Podiatric Medicine, 22910 Crenshaw Blvd., #B, Torrance, CA 90505 (310) 891-0100. And for ABMSP, contact: American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry, 1350 Broadway, Suite 1705, New York, NY, 10018 (888) 852-1442.

Hospital Privileging – Please see “Information on Privileging” at <http://www.bpm.ca.gov/pubs/fspriv.pdf> or contact the American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons. Contact: ACFAS, 515 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068 (847) 292-2237.

Preferred Practice Guidelines - ACFAS also publishes guidelines for foot and ankle procedures. The BPM looks to the Preferred Practice Guidelines as an important part of the professional literature.

Medical Ethics - The California Podiatric Medical Association (CPMA) is the state affiliate of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA). CPMA, 2430 K Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95816 ☎ (916) 448-0248. The AMA Code of Medical Ethics and the APMA Code of Ethics are both applicable to podiatric medicine.

Continuing Competence/License Renewal - BPM's licensees must certify at each license renewal every two years compliance with at least one of several continuing competence indicators as well as 50 hours of CME. CPR certificates are no longer required for renewal of state licenses for doctors. Biennial renewal fees are \$900.

BPM Information & Enforcement Action

☎ (916) 263-2647--BPM HQ's

☎ (916) 263-2650-- BPM's Executive Officer

☎ 1-800-MED-BDCA--to file complaints about doctors

☎ (916) 263-2382--to verify licensure/disciplinary records ([www2.dca.ca.gov/pls/wllpub/wllquery\\$.startup](http://www2.dca.ca.gov/pls/wllpub/wllquery$.startup))